



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION



The Ajo Municipal Airport Master Plan is a cooperative effort between Pima County and the Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division (ADOT). This Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive analysis of airport needs and alternatives with the purpose of providing direction for the future development of this facility.

This Master Plan is evidence that Pima County recognizes the importance of Ajo Municipal Airport to both the Town of Ajo and the region, as well as the associated challenges inherent in accommodating future aviation needs. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment which yields significant benefits to a community. By maintaining a sound and flexible Master Plan, Ajo Municipal Airport can become a greater economic asset and a source of pride to the residents of the Town of Ajo and western Pima County.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Airport Master Plan is to develop and maintain a long-term development program which will yield a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable air transportation facility. The accomplishment of this objective requires the evaluation of the existing airport and a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain an adequate, safe, and reliable airport facility to meet the needs of the area. The completed Master Plan will provide an outline of the necessary development and give responsible officials advance notice of future needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

Specific objectives of this Master Plan are:

- To obtain socioeconomic factors likely to affect the air transportation demand in the region.

- To evaluate the future role of the airport
- To determine projected needs of airport users through the year 2020 by which to support airport development alternatives.
- To produce current and accurate airport base maps and Airport Layout Plans.
- To establish a schedule of development priorities and a program for the improvements proposed in the Master Plan.
- To prioritize the airport capital improvement program.

To accomplish the objectives of this study, the Master Plan:

- Inventories and analyzes data pertinent to the airport, its environs, and the area it serves.
- Collects and analyzes general economic factors and evaluates the area's aviation activity.
- Forecasts aviation activity through the year 2020.
- Determines facility requirements for the airport.

- Examines alternative ways the required facilities can be provided.
- Proposes an airport layout plan which is compatible with both aviation demands and the local environment.
- Schedules priorities, phases proposed development, and estimates development costs.
- Identifies and evaluates capital improvement funding sources.

The Airport Master Plan for Ajo Municipal Airport is funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division and Pima County. Technical work is being conducted by the airport consulting firm of Coffman Associates, Inc.

A Planning Advisory Committee has been established to review draft materials on the project and provide comment and input throughout the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan is developed. A series of public information workshops are also scheduled to allow the public to provide input and learn about the study.